



CAMBRIDGE IN AMERICA NEWSLETTER

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Celebrate Cambridge's 800th in New York, Dec. 5, and San Francisco, Dec. 10

On Saturday December 5, New York City's iconic Empire State Building will shine in vivid blue in honor of the University of Cambridge's 800th anniversary. Just as Cambridge has illuminated the world over the past eight centuries, Cambridge Blue will illuminate the skyline of New York – if only briefly.

Many stories below, in Gotham Hall at 36th Street and Broadway, celebrants will toast the festive occasion at a black-tie Gala dinner-dance. The Vice-Chancellor and many Heads of House and other Cambridge notables will join alumni and friends to honor the genius of Cambridge

in a program of words, music, and images.

Sir David Frost (Caius) will be the evening's Master of Ceremonies. Vice-Chancellor Alison Richard and Cambridge in America Chairman Dr. William Janeway will welcome the guests. The Choir of Clare College and the Cambridge University Dance-sport Team will provide entertainment, and many surprises are in store.

As this *Newsletter* goes to press, full-evening Gala Dinner tickets (\$250) have sold out; a limited number of After Party tickets (\$75, Dessert Buffet/Dancing after 9:30 p.m.) are available.

For more details, and to order tickets (while they last), go to www.cantab.org/gala.

Many Cambridge Colleges will be holding alumni events of their own earlier that evening or on adjacent dates. See the "College News" section of this *Newsletter*, pages 4-16 for details, or check your College website.

On Thursday December 10, at San Francisco's Saint Francis Yacht Club, in the Marina district, West Coast alumni will have the opportunity to salute Cambridge's 800th. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alison Richard, will lead the West Coast festivities and welcomes all Cantabs to attend this event free of charge. For details, go to www.cantab.org/gala. ■

800



Sir David Frost



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NIH – Cambridge Scholarship Program Flourishes



NIH-Cambridge Scholar Lisa Bond (UNC –Chapel Hill) and her NIH mentor Dr. Jim Sellers

As initially reported five years ago, in *Cam Newsletter* issue 7 (October 2004), an exciting program has been giving outstanding U.S. students the opportunity to spend their graduate years at the US and UK's biomedical and clinical research epicenters. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Cambridge University provide this opportunity to outstanding American students through the NIH Cambridge Scholars Program (<http://oxcam.gpp.nih.gov>).

The NIH and Cambridge scientists who serve as mentors in the program affirm that the quality of the program's students and the unique structure of the Program produce scientific outcomes unrivalled by any other PhD program in the world. More Churchill, Marshall, Fulbright, Howard Hughes Medical, and Gates Scholars are enrolled in the program than in others of its kind. Of the students accepted, 70% agree to matriculate into the program despite competing offers from the most prominent biomedical Ph.D. programs in America.

2009's Cambridge-affiliated scholars include:

Stephanie Mok – Harvard University

Tamara Litwin – Massachusetts Institute of Technology (CISS Scholar)

Austin Swafford – University of Texas

Caroline Robertson – Columbia University (Gates Cambridge Scholar)

Cedar Fowler – Tufts University School of Medicine

Aaron Alexander-Bloch – UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine

Matt Biancalana – University of Chicago (Churchill Scholar)

Joel Meyerson – University of Texas

Alex Ritter – Concordia College

Stephanie Hill – University of Kansas

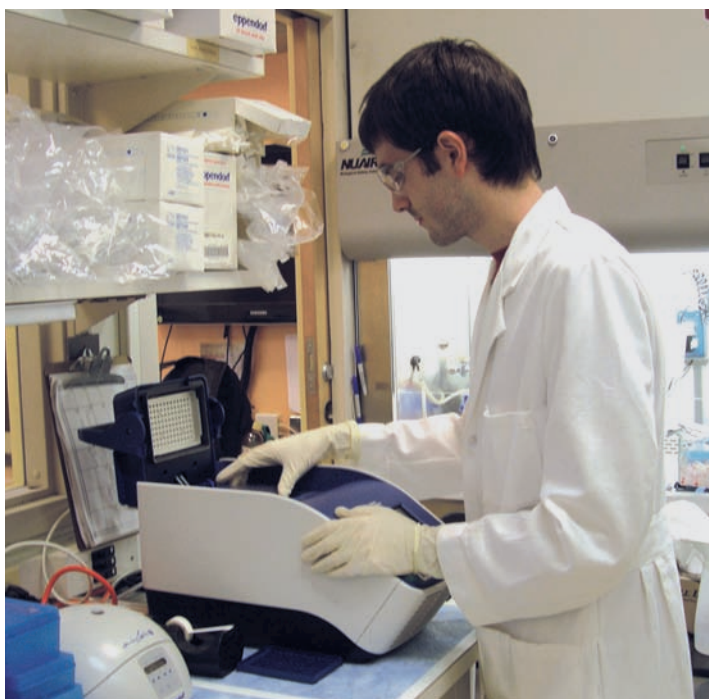
William O'Dell – University of Tennessee

These newly admitted students have just finished designing their collaborative projects under mentors at NIH and Cambridge and have begun their research at one of these institutions.

The 19 Scholars who have graduated from Cambridge University since the program's inception in 2002 include Adam Bennett, Christina Bodner, Danielle Bassett, Miriam Udler, Jason Mellad, Tricia Peters, Tomasz Macura, Justin Lathia, Rittik Chaudhuri, Jeannie Milstein, Sara Angleman, Jeffrey Smith, Alicia Lee, Jeffrey Lengyel, Tracy Laabs, Martin Lan, Ogechi Ikediobi, Wendy Chang and Stephen Huffaker. This group of



Austin Swafford



Matt Biancalana

accomplished alumni includes both a Goldwater and a Churchill Scholar. Each of the graduates has produced a first-authored, peer-reviewed scientific publication, and most have produced more. Seven are physician-scientist students in MD/PhD programs and are pursuing medical studies at schools such as Harvard and Duke. Two are assistant professors and others are postdoctoral fellows at NIH and various UK and US universities. Students are carrying out research in neuroscience, structural biology, molecular biology, pharmacogenomics, epidemiology, and computer science.

Students apply each fall through a free application off the NIH website, <http://oxcam.gpp.nih.gov> ■